THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 8th January 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate. Mount Road, at nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" I rise on a point of information, Sir. From the list of questions for to-day, I find that only one question number has been put in. Is it because there are no other questions for inclusion? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The other questions will be taken up to-morrow."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" I rise on another point of information, Sir. The numbers given to the questions are 388-A, 388-B, 388-C and so on, and it looks as if all the questions relate to the same subject. As a matter of fact, question No. 388-C relates to postwar road development scheme for Udayarpalayam taluk and it has no connexion with the subject-matter of either question No. 388-A or question No. 388-B."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I will explain. These questions were admitted as short-notice questions and so they were given A, B, C numbers."

Tube Wells Scheme for South Arcot district.

* 388-A *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the water that comes out of the wells sunk under the 101 tube wells scheme in South Arcot district contains alkaline elements; and

(*b*) whether the Government have examined the question whether this water has any bad effect on wet (nanja) lands in this area?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The water has no bad effect whatsoever on the wet lands in the area."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" ஊற்றுக்கிணறுகளிலிருந்து வரக்கூடிய தண்ணீரில் உவர்ப்பு ஈக்தி இருப்பதால் அந்தத் தண்ணீர் தங்குகிற இடங்களிலெல்லாம் அந்த உவர்ப்பு சகதியினால் வேர்கள் கெட்டுப்போய் பயிர்கள் அழிந்து விடுகின்றன. அது நாங்கள் கண்ட அனுபவம். அரசாங்கம் இல்லை யென்றால் காரணம் என்னவென்று கெமிகல் அனலைஸ் செய்து பார்த்தீர்களா ? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, the Government Agricultural Chemist thoroughly examined the water and submitted a report. He has reported after an analysis of 67 water samples, that the total solids content of the water flowing from the artesian bore wells sunk at Government cost in the South Arcot district ranges from 20 to 80 parts over 1,00,000. The alkaline elements present in the water are mainly in the form of calcium and magnesium bicarbonates. The water generally shows a low chloride content. The sulphates are contained partly as magnesium sulphate and partly as sodium sulphate. However, divalent ions (calcium and magnesium) predominate over the monovalent ions and this is a very favourable feature. The water is deemed suitable for irrigation. Although the water as it comes out from the wells exhibits smell of hydrogen sulphide and taste of rusted iron, it becomes suitable for irrigation purposes after aeration."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Has this water any bad effect on cattle and human beings? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have no information."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Is it not a fact that because of the availability of water throughout the year, the ryots cultivate paddy or other crops throughout the year and as a result of this and as a result of the ryots not using fertilizers, the soil becomes poor? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is giving information."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to examine that aspect of the question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" In the course of the answer, the Hon. Minister said that the alkaline content of the water did not have any bad effect on crops. Has any research been made whether the grains produce any bad effect on the human beings who consume them? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" If the consumers of the rice or other grains convey to me their experiences, I will have the matter examined by experts."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Since the 101 artesian wells are in a compact block and adjacent to the Community Project area, will the Government consider the inclusion of this block within the Community Project area, so that the ryots there may have the benefit of getting and using fertilizers on a large scale? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I shall consider that suggestion for next year."